



Museums get a little help from some plants **3**

Ventra service center gets this one right **4**

Time to test your Winter Games IQ **13**



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MIXOLOGY ACADEMY: THE MARTINI AND THE MANHATTAN

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108 W. Kinzie St. 312-329-9551

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TUESDAY BEER CHAT

The Dawson

THE DAWSON
730 W. Grand Ave.
312-243-8955

Specialty beer importer Merchant du Vin discusses Lindemans fruit beers and Ayinger Celebrator Doppelbock—a dark double bock—and pours complimentary samples (5-6 p.m.). Then, sip a glass of Lindemans Kriek sour cherry ale for \$8. 5 p.m. No cover.

DO



FIRST TUESDAY: MIDWEST INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

Landmark Century Centre Cinema

2828 N. Clark St. 773-248-7759

The series celebrates its 10th anniversary with the Chicago premiere of the coming-of-age comedy "Adventures in the Sin Bin"—featuring Bo Burnham, Emily Meade, Jeff Garlin and Tim Blake Nelson—plus a 6 p.m. cocktail reception, a producers' panel and a post-screening discussion with the director. 6 p.m. \$10-\$15. Tickets: midwestfilm.com.

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE

Clothes Minded

1735 N. Damen Ave. 773-227-3402

Boutique owner Sandy Horwitz says goodbye with good buys including 30 percent discounts on new spring items and 50-75 percent off winter items. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Through mid-late February.

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Purchase \$50 tickets for Sunda's Singles & Sushi event Feb. 14 at sundachicago.com/valentines

A photograph of a man with glasses and a backpack, seen from behind, looking out over a body of water towards a city skyline at sunset. The skyline includes recognizable buildings like the Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower). A large white callout box in the upper right corner contains the text "FOR THOSE WHOSE PLANS COME IN XL.". In the lower left foreground, there is a smaller white rectangular box containing the Roosevelt University logo (a stylized green 'R') and the text "ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY". Below this box, the words "THIS WAY UP." are printed vertically.

nature calls

Plants—and holiday lights—draw more visitors into Chicago museums

Chicago Tribune

Even as attendance dropped overall at area museums and animal attractions in 2013, it was a very good year for horticulture.

The Chicago Botanic Garden had more than 1 million visitors for the first time since it opened in 1972, a 5 percent increase over 2012, while the Morton Arboretum climbed to 885,000 visitors in 2013, up from 809,000 the year before, a more than 9 percent jump.

"There is a growing demand for places where people can visit that are centered on the outdoors, on the environment and health, well-being, inspiration, and both of our institutions are a very good value," said Sophia Shaw Siskel, president and CEO of the 385-acre Botanic Garden,

located in Glencoe.

The arboretum's boost could largely be attributed to a new, holiday-season outdoor lights attraction, "Illumination," which drew 84,000 visitors, most of them during a cold and snowy December.

Overall attendance in 2013 for the 15 institutions that comprise Museums Work for Chicago, which includes 11 members of the Museums in the Park coalition and four other Cook County attractions, slipped to 14.8 million from 15.1 million in 2012, a 2 percent decline, according to figures released Monday by the Museums Work coalition.

The arboretum, in Lisle, is not part of the Museums Work group and provided its attendance figures separately.

While the three most popular area attractions—all animal havens—accounted for more than half of the

coalition's attendance, they reported declines ranging from 1 to 7 percent compared with the previous year.

They are the free Lincoln Park Zoo, with 3.46 million estimated visitors (down from 3.51 million); Brookfield Zoo, with 2.17 million (2.34 million); and Shedd Aquarium, with 2.02 million (2.17 million).

At Shedd Aquarium, the 7 percent drop came despite the introduction of a new, warm-weather attraction, the Stingray Touch petting pool.

But Amy Ritter Cowen, executive vice president of guest experience, chose to accentuate the positive, emphasizing the aquarium's remaining above the 2 million threshold and being the top paid attraction in city boundaries.

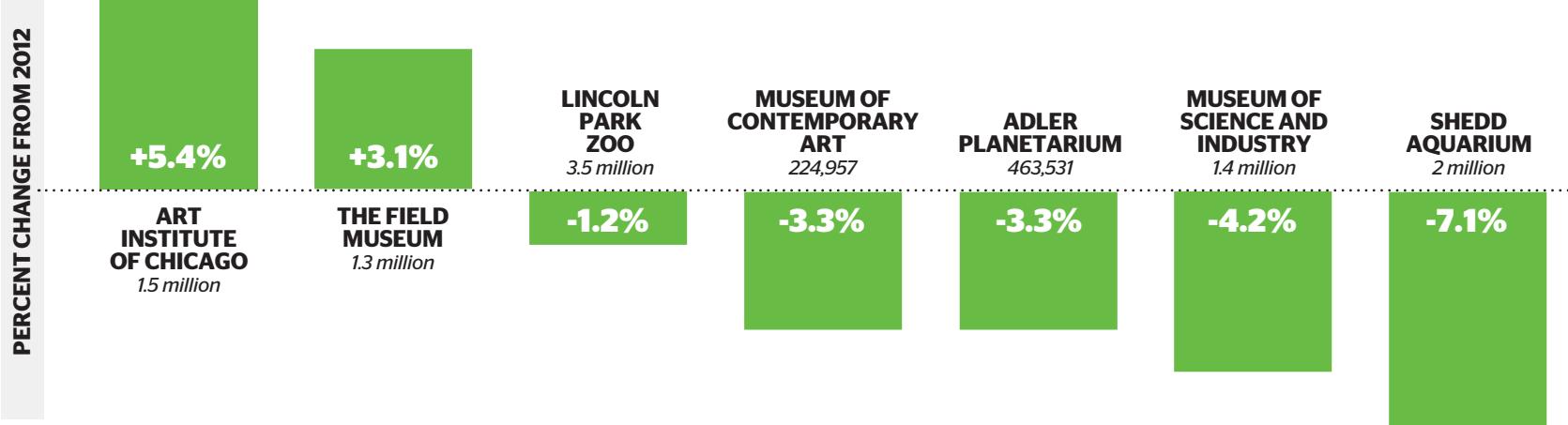
"That is just a fantastic showing of support," she said.



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Gains and losses

Overall attendance dropped about 1.4 percent in 2013 at the 15 museums and institutions tracked by a local umbrella group, plus the Morton Arboretum. Here is a look at some of the numbers for some of the city's biggest attractions.



Ventra service center not so bad



GOING PUBLIC

Tracy Swartz

✉ tswartz@tribune.com
✉ @tracyswartz

While some people played Christmas music in their cubes over the holidays, the Ventra hold music became my classic tune.

When I tried phoning customer service in October, I was disconnected by Ventra six times—and got through on the seventh try after a 56-minute wait.

So I was apprehensive to visit the Ventra customer service center, 165 N. Jefferson St., to fix a mistaken charge on my card.

I noticed recently I was getting a low account balance message when I tapped my Ventra card on some bus and train readers—even though I have a 30-day unlimited pass. I logged onto ventrachicago.com and realized that I had a balance of negative \$2.

I tried to figure out what the extra charge was, but the account history only allowed me to go back a month. All those trips were funded using my 30-day pass.

I visited the customer service center, which is around the corner from CTA headquarters and near the Clinton stop on the Green and Pink lines, at about 1:15 p.m. Monday. There is a large sign outside the center, which is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

STATIONARY

A weekly dispatch from a CTA station of note

This week: Ridgeland Green Line

The most notable feature of this Oak Park station is not actually in the station at all. There is a massive, fancy bike rack outside the stop that resembles a sculpture. Inside, the station looks like a throwback from the '70s. It is small, dingy and not accessible for riders with disabilities. It is the least popular suburban Green Line station in terms of ridership. But who wants to hang out at a stop that's passe?

Next up: Chicago Red Line



Inside, five service windows were open and clerks were helping four riders. There were no more than three riders in line at a time. I waited five minutes for a clerk.

I handed her my Ventra card, and she asked me to verify my name and the answer to my security question that I filled out online. She didn't ask to see ID.

The clerk said I had double-tapped my card Nov. 12, which accounted for the negative balance. I explained that I didn't pay for another rider and the second tap was a mistake.

She nodded and handed me a receipt showing my balance had been credited. I was out of the center within 15 minutes.

Online, the customer service center gets a bad rap. There are more than 150 Google reviews of the center, but the reviews—overwhelmingly negative—are more about the Ventra system overall and customer service call center than the brick-and-mortar outpost.

The call center has seen improvement, the CTA said. Ventra reduced call hold time to a minute or less early last week, the CTA said Friday. The customer service number, 877-669-8368, receives about 4,000 calls on average each day.

The agency also said Friday that last weekend it started changing the messages Ventra readers display to specifically tell riders if their card is expiring or they need to add money.

Good thing, because when I tapped my card after leaving the customer service center, the same low account balance message appeared.

So much for progress.



JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound



Rockie Fresh



DVS Jackson Esq.



Michele McGuire

SEND US YOUR DEMOS!

In 2013, the 10th annual RedEye Rock 'n' Vote was simply huge: A packed House of Blues crowd partied with whysowhite, Michele McGuire, DVS Jackson Esq. and the Addies, with McGuire ultimately taking home the title. And we're not stopping there.

Rock 'n' Vote, whose alums include JC Brooks and the Uptown Sound, Rockie Fresh and I Fight Dragons, is back—which means it's time for any Chicago band seeking exposure to send in their demos (music, bio, anything else you have).

We're looking for men, women, rappers, rockers, anything really—just make it good. We'll pick the Top 10 submissions, and RedEye readers will listen to the finalists and vote for which acts they want to see play our RedEye Rock 'n' Vote concert this spring.

Don't delay! Submissions must be received by April 11. If you're entering electronically, send submissions (music, hi-res color photos, etc.) to mpais@tribune.com and prove that you rock!

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LAKEVIEW 3216 N. Broadway (Next to Gap)
LINCOLN PARK 1534 N. Halsted St (1 block S. of Halsted & Clybourn)
LINCOLN PARK WEST 2576 N. Clybourn Ave (River Point Shop. Ctr, next to Aldi)
SIX CORNERS 4805 W. Irving Park Rd (Irving Park & Cicero)
STATE STREET 177 N. State St (Btwn. Chicago Theater & Chik-Fil-A)
UPTOWN 5300 N. Broadway (Broadway Festival Shopping Center)
BANNOCKBURN 1171 Half Day Rd (Bannockburn Green, Nxt to Panera Bread)
BATAVIA 485 N. Randall Road (Wind Point Shopping Center, next to Pier 1)
BERWYN 7129 W. Cermak Rd (Cermak Plaza, Next to Meijer)
BOLINGBROOK 1249 W. Boughton Plaza (Next to Dunkin' Donuts)
CRYSTAL LAKE 4801 Northwest Highway (Near Chuck E. Cheese & Outback)
DES PLAINES 721 W. Golf Road (Marketplace Shopping Center)

EVERGREEN PARK 2650 W. 95th Street (Next to T-Mobile)
FRANKFORT 11043 W. Lincoln Hwy (Prairie Crossing, near Kohl's)
GLENVIEW 2221 Willow Road (Near Target)
LAGRANGE 115 N. LaGrange Rd (Next to Sprint)
LANSING 16821 Torrence Ave (Landings of Lansing)
NAPERVILLE 376 S. Route 59 (Westridge Court, in front of Petco)
NORRIDGE 4270 N. Harlem Ave (Next to X-Sport Fitness at the HIP)
OAK BROOK 1600 W. 16th Street (The Oaks, Across from Oak Brook Center)
OSWEGO 2450 Route 34 (Corner of Route 34 & Heritage Dr)
ROCKFORD 6290 E. State St (State St. Market, next to Chili's)
SCHAUMBURG 180 Barrington Rd (Home Depot Shopping Center)
SOUTH LOOP 605 W. Roosevelt Rd (Across from Best Buy)
TINLEY PARK 15840 S. Harlem Ave (Between Five Guys & Subway)
WHEATON 9 Rice Lake Square (Next to Panera Bread)

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Numbers game

Gay media can't seem to make up their minds about Chicago. Here, RedEye breaks down four recent rankings. T.S.

RANKING: OutTraveler.com,
Incomparable Gay Neighborhood

CHICAGO'S SPOT: No. 1, Boystown

THE METHODOLOGY: Editors selected their favorite spots, which included The Mission in San Francisco and West Hollywood, and readers voted their No. 1 pick.

REACTION: "Chicago was definitely the reader favorite," said [outtraveler.com](#) editor-in-chief Neal Broverman, who originally nominated Chicago after being impressed by the city during a recent visit. Seven hundred-plus votes were cast, and Chicago nabbed more than 40 percent of the vote. The Mission came in second with 22 percent, Broverman said.

RANKING: The Advocate,
Gayest Cities in America

CHICAGO'S SPOT: Nowhere

THE METHODOLOGY: Points were given for number of LGBTQ elected officials, lesbian-coupled households, gay rodeos, gay bars on [out.com](#)'s 200 best bars list, women's colleges and concerts by Mariah Carey, Pink, Lady Gaga and the Jonas Brothers.

REACTION: Matt Breen, Advocate editor-in-chief, said the categories are meant to be tongue-in-cheek and the point of the ranking is to highlight gay-friendly cities beyond New York and Chicago. Still, readers protested. "As soon as we posted [the list], a ton of people said, 'Where's Chicago? Where's Chicago? Where's Chicago?'" Breen said. "People thought that was missing."

RANKING: Campuspride.org,
Top 25 LGBT-Friendly Colleges
and Universities

CHICAGO'S SPOT: UIC made the list, which is not broken down numerically

THE METHODOLOGY: College administrators fill out about 50 questions on gay-friendly policies and programs. Points are given to positive answers. The 25 colleges with the most points make the list.

REACTION: The ranking "relates to policies, programs and practices. It's not about the perception. It's about what policies do [colleges] have in place," Campus Pride executive director Shane Windmeyer said. "I think Chicago colleges that we've worked with are doing really, really good work."

RANKING: Out.com,
200 Greatest Gay Bars in the World

CHICAGO'S SPOT: Seven bars, tying the city with Paris. Second only to New York for most bars on the list.

THE METHODOLOGY: Editors made their choices based on nominations, suggestions and their own research.

REACTION: There were more than 80 Facebook comments on [out.com](#) about the rankings. No comments mentioned Chicago. In its intro to the list, [out.com](#) wrote: "As with any list, it's impossible to be definitive. ... We've also tried to arrive at a list that satisfies everyone from a pierced and leather-clad cub to a skinny, go-go boy wannabe. But we're sure that this will only stoke the fires of debate."



List off

Do LGBT rankings make a difference in Chicago? Depends who you ask

By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE

We're No. 1! We're No. 2! We're No. o!

When it comes to how LGBT-friendly Chicago is, the results are in—and they vary across the board.

OutTraveler.com, an LGBT travel site, named Boystown the world's best gay neighborhood this year thanks to its welcoming attitude and Northalsted Market Days, "an unrivaled August street party."

This title comes on the heels of **out.com**, an LGBTQ lifestyles site, placing seven North Side bars in its Top 200 greatest gay bars in the world. The Second City was second only to New York for most bars on the list.

But Chicago didn't even crack this year's list of the Top 25 gayest U.S. cities by **The Advocate**, a gay issues magazine. Our city was behind No. 15 Pittsburgh ("vigorous theater scene") and No. 8 Salt Lake City ("plenty of sporty gay and lesbian ski bunnies"). Even Akron, Ohio (No. 24), was stiff competition.

Though often arbitrary in their ranking categories, magazine and website articles and mentions have some sway in tourism, particularly gay tourism, a \$56.5 billion—and growing—industry in the U.S., according to recent marketing reports.

Local businesses say they depend on these bucks, and the wrestling for tourism is expected to intensify as states such as Illinois increasingly lift same-sex marriage restrictions—leading to a jump in ceremonies and honeymoons. Pride events also major attractions, research shows.

So is booze. Roscoe's Tavern in Lakeview and six other Boystown and Andersonville watering holes made the **out.com** list.

Brenden Chrisman, general manager of Roscoe's, which turns 27 this year, said there was "definitely a positive impact" on his bottom line from the **out.com** ranking.

Chrisman said he doesn't see his tavern competing with other Boystown bars for tourism dollars. Instead, he said the bars have a "mutual beneficial relationship" because the neighborhood is tight-knit.

He cited the **outtraveler.com** ranking of Boystown as an example.

"When Boystown was named No. 1, it was all over Facebook and a lot of customers had

things to say about it. I think there's a definite pride in the neighborhood," said Chrisman, 33.

Francisco Delgado doesn't live in Boystown, but said he's long known the neighborhood is No. 1 when it comes to atmosphere and mix of bars in a small area. He said he's been to gay bars in San Francisco; Mexico City; San Jose, Calif.; Madrid and Barcelona, Spain, but felt disappointed there was not better bar variety in those cities.

Still, the Lincoln Square resident said he was surprised Boystown took the prize.

"I didn't really think we had people actually paying attention to what we have here in the city," said Delgado, 38. "From what I've seen, the bars here in Chicago have more to offer. They are more elaborate."

It's too early to tell if the Boystown announcement, made last month, will impact Boystown, but research shows that articles in magazines, websites and blogs play a role in influencing gay travel.

More than 60 percent of gay and bisexual men said that articles in magazines and websites weighed on their destination decisions in the past year, according to a survey of 3,000-plus people from the LGBT community.

More than 50 percent of lesbian and bisexual women said the articles affected their travel selections, according to the same report, released in December by Community Marketing and Insights, an LGBT consumer research firm.

Gay adults between 25 and 44 years old said they were more influenced by travel blogs and social media in their travel selections than adults older than 45. The same survey found Chicago to be the No. 2 U.S. destination for leisure by gay men, tied with San Francisco and Las Vegas and behind New York.

Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City and Akron didn't even make the cut.

Ian Reisner, co-founder of Parkview Developers, said he sees these lists—but it wasn't the rankings of Chicago as a top gay tourist destination that spurred him to choose Chicago as the next spot for his LGBT boutique hotel, but instead the demographics of the city.

"I made my decision based on the estimated, guesstimated demographic numbers, not based on one or two rankings," Reisner said. "To me, that's more powerful than an editor's [ideal] of what's hot or not."

He said Chicago's architecture and art mu-



JOSE M. OSORIO/Tribune File

G When Boystown was named No. 1, it was all over Facebook and a lot of customers had things to say about it. I think there's a definite pride in the neighborhood."

—Brenden Chrisman, general manager of Roscoe's

seums and the concentration of gay businesses in Boystown also helped guide his decision. Out NYC, his first outpost, opened in 2012.

Reisner is hoping to open Out Chicago in 2016. Location plans are unclear, and Reisner has seen opposition from the Lakeview community over the proposed Boystown location.

Bars and businesses are not the only spots that may see a bump from gay rankings. **Campus pride.org**, which provides LGBT collegiate support programs, named its Top 25 LGTBQ-friendly colleges and universities in August based on policies, support and academic and student life.

UIC made the list last year and the year before. The University of Chicago snagged a spot in 2012.

The recognition is a "nice way to reinforce

that perception" of the University of Chicago being a gay-friendly place, said Jeffrey Howard, director of the Office of LGBTQ Student Life.

Student interaction with the office has more than doubled in the past few years to 2,000-plus visits and other forms of participation by LGBTQ students, Howard said.

"That probably has many causes, but it's gratifying that people know this is a supportive community that is deeply committed to diversity," Howard said in an email. "It's also important to us as an intellectual community. A leading research university like this one can't afford to lose out on the contributions and discoveries that people from different backgrounds could make."

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THURSDAY
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Whole Foods on Monday confirmed plans to buy seven Dominick's locations in the city and surrounding suburbs.



Mayor Emanuel won support from the City Council Finance Committee on Monday to issue up to \$900 million in bonds. ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/Tribune

M-Rahm seeks \$900M

Bond request would be on top of city's \$7 billion outstanding debt

Chicago Tribune

In a move that will add to the city's mountain of debt, Mayor Emanuel won support Monday from the City Council's Finance Committee to issue up to \$900 million in bonds backed by property taxes.

It's the largest request put forth during Emanuel's tenure and comes at a time when Chicago already has about \$7 billion in outstanding general obligation debt, more per capita than bankrupt Detroit or any of the 10 biggest U.S. cities except New York.

In testimony before the committee, Chief Financial Officer Lois Scott provided a broad outline of how the bond proceeds would be spent, saying it would be consistent with previous years.

Last year, the Tribune's "Broken Bonds" series revealed how city leaders have used long-term borrowing to paper over budget shortfalls and push current costs onto future

generations—all with little input from taxpayers or oversight from aldermen.

Monday, aldermen asked few questions about the borrowing as the ordinance authorizing the debt sailed through the committee with virtually no debate.

"It raises questions of how much City Council members understand the financial condition of the city and what the plan going forward will be to meet the debt," said Laurence Msall, president of the nonpartisan Civic Federation budget watchdog group.

Also Monday, Emanuel's finance team won tentative permission to vastly expand the amount of short-term bank loans officials can tap to infuse city coffers with much-needed cash. Known as "commercial paper," the loans have been used in the past to cover a wide array of city expenses.

Chicago currently has about \$425 million in commercial paper loans outstanding, an amount that has increased dramatically in recent years. Under the ordinance, the limit would be increased from \$500 million to \$1 billion.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The ordinance will go to the full City Council on Wednesday, when it is expected to pass.

Taken together, the amount of borrowing sought by Emanuel suggests his administration continues to need huge loans to run the city.

Scott declined through a spokeswoman to be interviewed for this story.

She told committee members that her department planned to issue \$400 million to \$450 million in general obligation bonds in March and the balance of the \$900 million during the second quarter of 2014.

She said \$130 million would go toward pushing upcoming debt payments into the future, a practice known as "scoop and toss." It saves the city money in the short term but ends up costing much more in the long run. An additional \$100 million, city officials say, will go to pay off commercial paper loans used to cover legal judgments.

Quinn wants to delay unveiling state budget

Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD Democratic Gov. Quinn has remained mum on whether he wants to keep in place the state income-tax increase that starts to expire next year, and now he's taking steps that will allow him to stay silent until after the March 18 primary election.

Instead of unveiling his budget on Feb. 19 as provided by law, Quinn wants to hold off until March 26, the week after the primary. The governor's request to legislative leaders for a delay drew criticism from both Democrats and Republicans as a blatant political maneuver.

Quinn spokeswoman Brooke Anderson said the governor is asking for more time because he plans to offer a five-year financial blueprint rather than a one-year budget proposal.

Anderson said the state is better positioned for a five-year plan following cutbacks in state pensions, Medicaid and worker contracts, among other changes, though Quinn is not guaranteed to be governor beyond early January 2015.

EXPRESS LINES

- » A man who spent two decades in prison for a double murder even though he was in custody when the slayings occurred filed a federal lawsuit Monday alleging that Chicago police coerced a confession from him and then manufactured evidence once they learned he could not have committed the murders.

- » An off-duty Chicago police officer fatally shot a robbery suspect Monday at a Walgreens in Jefferson Park, according to authorities.

- » Begyle Brewing has opened a tasting room inside its facility at 1800 W. Cuyler Ave. in Ravenswood. **TRIBUNE**

Chicago Tribune

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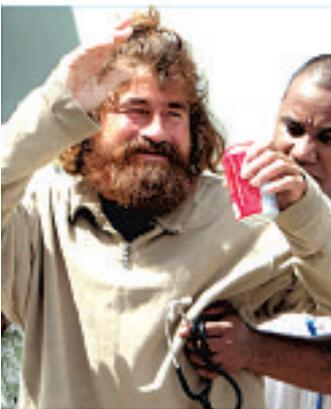
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Jose Salvador Albarenga

Fisherman claims he spent year adrift

1 A fisherman thought to be from El Salvador who washed ashore on the Marshall Islands said he survived more than a year adrift in the Pacific Ocean, drinking turtle blood and catching fish and birds with his bare hands. Jose Salvador Albarenga, 37, told officials he set sail from Mexico—some 6,200 miles away—in late December 2012.

50 bags of heroin found in Hoffman's apartment

2 Philip Seymour Hoffman had about 50 bags of heroin and 20 used syringes on hand in his New York apartment before his death, law enforcement sources said Monday, according to several reports. An autopsy was being conducted Monday.

Egypt reports 16 dead of swine flu this winter

3 Sixteen people in Egypt have died from the H1N1 virus—commonly known as swine flu—since the start of the winter, the country's Ministry of Health said Monday. The ministry's spokesman was quoted as saying 172 people have been diagnosed with the virus, including those who died.

Joan Mondale, wife of Walter Mondale, dies

Joan Mondale, the wife of former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale and a champion of the arts, died Monday, her family said in a statement. She was 83.

Yellen sworn in as first female Fed chair

4 Janet Yellen was sworn in Monday to a term as chair of the U.S. central bank, the Federal Reserve said in a statement. Yellen succeeds Ben Bernanke to become the first woman to head the Fed. Her term ends in 2018.

Escaped convicted murderer captured by police in Indiana

5 A convicted murderer who escaped from a Michigan prison during Sunday's Super Bowl was recaptured in Indiana on Monday after kidnapping a woman and forcing her to drive to the neighboring state, a corrections official said.

Police took Michael David Elliot into custody in LaPorte County, Ind., according to Michigan Department of Corrections spokesman Russ Marlan.

Elliot escaped the prison at about 7 p.m. local time Sunday through perimeter fences at the facility in Ionia, where he was serv-

ing four life sentences for murders in 1993, Michigan's corrections department said.

Elliot did not use tools to get through the prison fences, but apparently was able to adjust them with his hands to fit his body through, according to Marlan.

Armed with a box cutter knife and a hammer, Elliot kidnapped a woman in Ionia and forced her to travel for about 100 miles before stopping at a gas station in the area of Middlebury, Ind., according to the LaGrange County sheriff's website.

The woman called police while Elliot was

pumping gas, and 911 dispatchers advised her to go inside the gas station and lock herself in the restroom, the statement said. Elliot paid for the gasoline and drove away.

The vehicle Elliot stole was found in Shipshewana, Ind., according to a LaGrange County sheriff's dispatcher. Shipshewana is less than 10 miles from Middlebury, near the Indiana border with Michigan.

Elliot was convicted of four murders in connection with an armed robbery of a residence in 1993. According to court records, Elliot was also convicted of arson.

Feds to push for car-to-car communications

The Department of Transportation will push the development of a short-range radio system aimed at stopping crashes by allowing cars to exchange basic facts about speed and direction to other vehicles as fast as 10 times a second.

Called vehicle-to-vehicle communications, such a system would give vehicles the ability to warn drivers of potential dangers as far as 300 yards away.

The technology could be linked to safety systems already in some vehicles that automatically trigger the brakes or make steering adjustments to stop collisions.

"This is just the beginning of a revolution in roadway safety," U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said Monday.

"I don't think you can underestimate the significance of having vehicles that are smart enough to recognize that an accident is about to happen and can step in to stop it," Foxx said.

The agency's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration plans to institute the rules for installing such systems in vehicles before the end of the Obama administration, Foxx said.



6 Mount Sinabung spews pyroclastic smoke, seen from Payung village on Monday in North Sumatra, Indonesia. The number of displaced people has increased to around 30,000 as the volcano continues to spew ash and smoke. GETTY IMAGES

**THE DIGIT**

\$41-\$50

That's how much 4 percent of parents are giving their children for allowance per week, according to numbers crunched for Reuters by Baltimore-based money managers T. Rowe Price, which are derived from its annual Parents, Kids & Money surveys.



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sports



American speedskater Patrick Meek



5
Members of the U.S. women's bobsled team



8
Japanese ski jumper Misaki Shigeno

Too cool for rules?

Pencils ready: Time to take our Olympics quiz

RedEye

Think you're a gold medalist in Olympic trivia? Here's your chance to find out. The Games begin Thursday in Sochi, Russia, and you probably should have these rules down so you can brag to your friends/win bar bets/sleep better at night. Just sayin'.

1. Backflips are legal in Olympic figure skating.

2. In long track speedskating, athletes must remain in their lanes the entire race.

3. In skeleton, competitors who intentionally slow down are disqualified.

4. Sled dog racing has been an Olympic sport.



Members of the U.S. curling team
GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTOS

5. A bobsled must cross the finish line upright.

6. In biathlon, competitors who miss a rifle shot must ski a 150-meter penalty loop before continuing on the course.

7. The curling stones for each Olympics must be manufactured in the host country.

8. In ski jumping, lighter athletes must use shorter skis to cancel out their advantage.

Answer Key

1. FALSE

2. FALSE. THEY MUST CHANGE LANES EACH LAP.

3. TRUE

4. TRUE, IN LAKE PLACID IN 1932.

5. FALSE. IT CAN CROSS IN ANY FASHION AS LONG AS ALL THE RIDERS ARE INSIDE THE SLED.

6. TRUE

7. FALSE. SINCE BECOMING A MEDAL SPORT IN 1998, EVERY STONE HAS BEEN MADE BY KAYS IN SCOTLAND.

8. TRUE

WIL CALL

Why can't the Bears' starting quarterback be more, you know, like the one who just won a Super Bowl?



Scott Bolohan
@scottbolohan
RedEye contributor



Clark Jones
@theclarkjones
Stand-up comic



Aly Bockler
@chicagoaly
Reporter, "You & Me This Morning"



Angi Taylor
@angi_taylor_kiss
103.5 KISS-FM



Brooke Weisbrod
@BrookeWeisbrod
Sky broadcaster

1 How can Jay Cutler be more like Russell Wilson?	Play baseball for a while. Please.	Hit the hair section at Walgreens. Russell's S-curl is Michael Jackson-nice.	By turning over a new leaf next season—a no-turnover leaf.	Run faster and get an ultra-perm.	It's way too late for that.
2 Why are six former Bears suing over the "Super Bowl Shuffle"?	They're not here to start no trouble, they're just here to stop commercial exploitation of their likenesses.	They need the money. Pep Boys don't pay like they used to.	Because this concussed crew can't remember they already used the money for a round of new hips!	Because Macklemore got more Grammy attention than they did.	Sweetness said it best: "The Bears are doin' it to feed the needy."
3 What should the Bulls bring back from their six-game road trip?	They should bring back bell-bottoms.	Four victories and a replacement for Luol Deng.	That West Coast warmth!	Warm weather?	Sounds like Boozer is already bringing back cheese and wine.
4 When you hear the words "Ice Derby," what comes to mind?	Sex.	Reminds me of the staredown I got after telling a girlfriend "It does make you look fat."	The Windy City Rollers battling on Lake Michigan?	Nancy Kerrigan (teeth joke).	Johnny's IceHouse on any given night.
5 Tracy McGrady trying to start a pro baseball career is like Darwin Barney trying to start a pro baseball career.	... Michael Jordan starting a baseball career—at his current age.	... Madonna still trying to rock the sexy. You're too dusty for that gig. Just stop already and hang up the dream.	... Bethenny from "Real Housewives" trying to do a talk show.	... C'mon MAAAAAN.

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Winter numberland

As always, the U.S. is poised to dominate the Olympics through sheer numbers. **REDEYE**



6 Nordic combined skier **Todd Lodwick** will become the first American to compete at six Winter Games.

10 **Lolo Jones** (two-time Olympic hurdler) and **Lauryn Williams** (three-time Olympic sprinter) will become the ninth and 10th Americans to compete in both the Winter and Summer Games when they compete in bobsled.



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS



31 That's the age gap between freestyle skier **Maggie Voisin**, the team's youngest athlete at 15 years old, and its oldest, 46-year-old curler **Ann Swishelm**.

15 The United States will be represented in all 15 Winter Games events in Sochi.

230 The 230-member U.S. team is the largest of any country in the history of the Winter Games.

106 The U.S. team features 106 returning Olympians—including one five-time Olympian, two four-time Olympians, 10 three-time Olympians and 23 two-time Olympians.

38 That's how many states will be represented in Sochi, including 20 athletes from California, 19 from both Colorado and Minnesota and 18 from New York. Eight Illinois residents are on the roster.
SOURCE: USOC

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USA TODAY FILE

THE MOUTHWATCH

“The stuff going on in practice would never be tolerated by the coaching staff or the front office back in Chicago. It's a mess.”

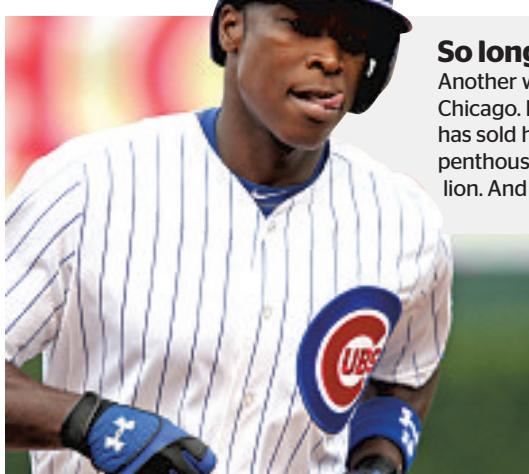
—Former Bulls forward **Luol Deng**, as reported by a friend to the New York Daily News



REUTERS

Casinos cash in

Sports has been good to the casino business, as usual. According to the Nevada Gaming Control Board, fans bet a record \$119.4 million in the state's casinos on the Super Bowl this year. Sports books made \$19.7 million on the action, the board said—more than the past three Super Bowl wins combined.

**So long (again), Soriano**

Another week, another athlete cutting ties with Chicago. It's Alfonso Soriano's turn: The ex-Cub has sold his three-bedroom, 3,828-square-foot penthouse condo in River North for \$2.905 million. And it smells a bit like ... empty promises.

Don't judge them

Leave it to a site like [pornhub.com](#) to make the Super Bowl about sex. The site reports that after the game, Denver saw a 10.8 percent increase in traffic, while Seattle saw a 17.2 percent drop at that time.

THE FINISH LINE

» Bulls at Sacramento, late » Blackhawks at Los Angeles, late » DePaul vs. Georgetown, late

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dating



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Forever on first dates



Anna Pulley

* redeye@tribune.com
* [@annapulley](http://annapulley)

Dear Anna,
I'm sick of being single but I'm also sick of going on endless first dates. In the past three months, I've had probably a dozen dates that never went anywhere. Am I choosing the wrong women or what? What am I doing wrong? —Anon

Dear Anon,
Well, Debbie Does Downerville, if your dates are anything like your emails, I'd say you're in need of an attitude adjustment. Twelve dates in three months! Shoot, I know lots of guys who would be thrilled to share 12 uneventful glasses of Old Style with that many women in such a short time span. But more to the point: I legitimately don't

know what you might be doing "wrong." You didn't give me much information to go on, and since you don't mention things like your advanced leprosy or how you made your dates watch your "Lord of the Rings: Frodo Uncut" box set (with three years of additional footage!), I can only presume you just didn't have much of a connection with these ladies. Which sucks, I know. But if you think of it mathematically, it makes more sense. Twelve dates out of the million or so single ladies who live in Chicago—those are pretty low odds, statistically. And chemistry is unpredictable, like the wind or Joaquin Phoenix. You never know when or why you click with someone until you do. So buck up, my little bronco, and get back on that horse. And while you're at it, please bring me the mug of Old Style that I am now weirdly craving.

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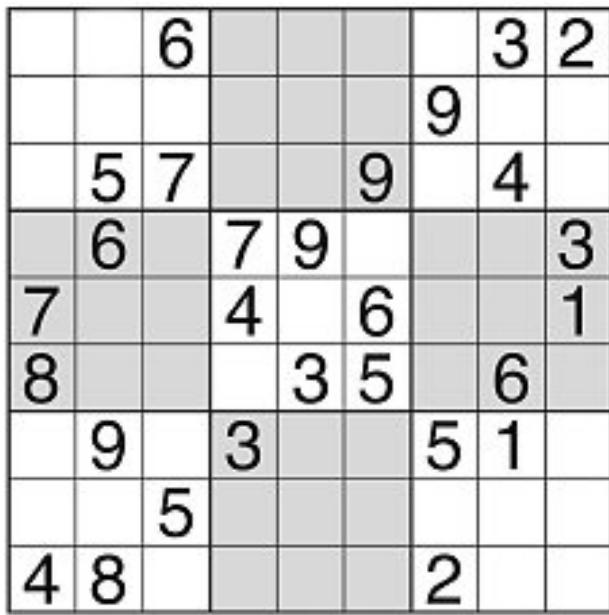
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P	I	V	O	T		R	U	N	G	L	O	B	E
S	C	I	M	I	T	A	R	A	B	I	C		
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TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

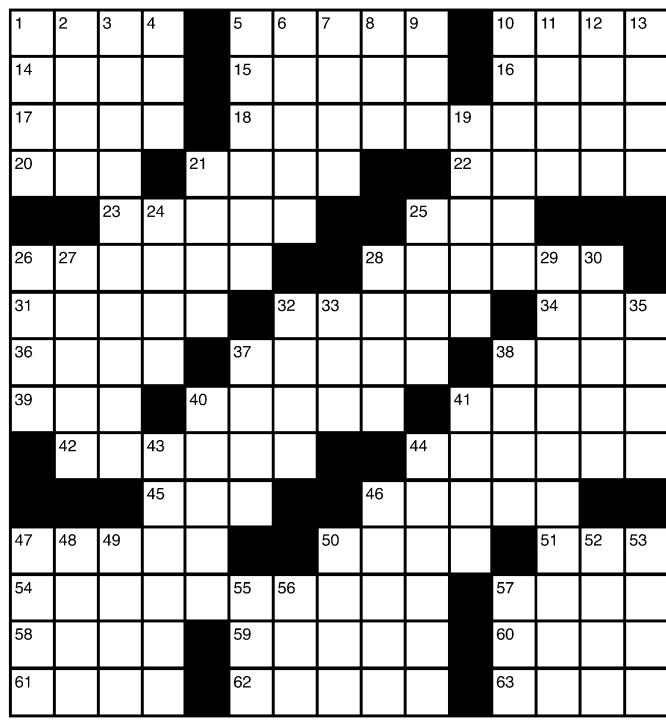
1789: Electors unanimously chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.**1977:** Two Chicago elevated trains crashed at Lake Street and Wabash Avenue, killing 11 people and injuring 183.**2004:** The Massachusetts high court declared gays were entitled to nothing less than marriage and that Vermont-style civil unions would not suffice.

ACROSS

- 1 Strong urges
5 Actress Burke
10 Expense
14 All _; everywhere
15 Stay away from
16 Exclusively
17 Acquires
18 Ice cream option
20 Mr. Linkletter
21 Discover
22 Wed on the run
23 Attracts; draws
25 Half and half
26 Truck fuel
28 Depress
31 Beginning
32 Limits one's calories
34 Doggy doc
36 One reason to take a shower
37 Sacred scroll
38 Tender loving _; TLC
39 Curved edge
40 Back tooth
41 Loses hair
42 Antenna
44 Hearty
45 As _ as the hills
46 Light wood used for rafts
47 Sum
50 Tie up
51 Cheap metal
54 Modest
57 Blaze
58 Suspenders alternative
59 Bart's mom
60 Cowboy's shoe
61 Invites
62 Puff _; deadly snake
63 Hampton and Holiday

DOWN

- 1 Meditative exercise
2 "Did you _ see a lassie ..."
3 Irritating
4 Last year's jr.s.
5 Actor _ Day-Lewis
6 Makes smooth
7 Burden
8 Helpful hint
9 Turmoil
10 Formed a spiral
11 Aware of the duplicity of
12 Strike with the open palm
13 Actress Daly
- 19 Loans
21 Worry
24 Drug addict
25 Sworn promise
26 Portal; entry
27 New Delhi, _
28 Scorch
29 Assessment
30 Bookish fellows
32 Betsy Wetsy or Barbie
- 33 Tax-deferred retirement acct.
35 SAT, for one
37 Warty amphibian
38 Taxis
40 Pepper grinders
41 Courageous
43 Cuts of beef
44 Forest officer
46 Pig out
- 47 Large brass instrument
48 Singles
49 Discussion
50 Wren or lark
52 Common metal
53 Tennis court dividers
55 Ms. Thurman
56 Angry
57 J. Edgar Hoover's agcy.



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whoville

We've got some ideas for cameos in the year's most thrilling sequel

By Curt Wagner | REDEYE

Ian Ziering and Tara Reid are officially reuniting. "Sharknado 2: The Second One" begins production Feb. 13 in New York City, Syfy announced Thursday. Ziering and Reid will reprise their roles as Fin and April in the sequel to the flick that took a bite out of ratings last year.

In "The Second One," a freak weather system unleashes a sharknado on New York City and its most iconic landmarks. "Sharknado 2," scheduled to premiere in July on Syfy, will be directed by Anthony Ferrante from a screenplay by Thunder Levin. Both are responsible for the first disaster—the first "Sharknado," that is.

"We're thrilled to be able to bring back the talent that made 'Sharknado' a hit. Can lightning strike twice? I don't know, but it's a scientific fact that you're more likely to be killed by lightning than by a shark," Paul Bales, COO of production company The Asylum, said in the same release. "This film will have lightning and sharks, so that's got to count for something."

Syfy and The Asylum are casting for the cameos, so why not these folks?

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REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

IT'S A SHARK! AGAIN!



Derrick Rose, playing a repeatedly maimed man who pops up every 10 minutes with a new injury.



Scarlett Johansson, as the voice of Sharkmantha the talking shark.



WGN meteorologist Tom Skilling, playing the only meteorologist who forecasts a Sharknado, but no one believes him.



Norman Reedus, as the hero who has the chance to save April (Tara Reid) from certain shark doom, but walks away instead.

San Jose Sharks captain Joe Thornton, as himself.

Jerry "Tark the Shark" Tarkanian, just because.

Hologram Roy Schneider, as a former sheriff who delivers just one line: "Smile, you son of a BITCH."

The cast of "Real Housewives of New York City," and please, have them get eaten.

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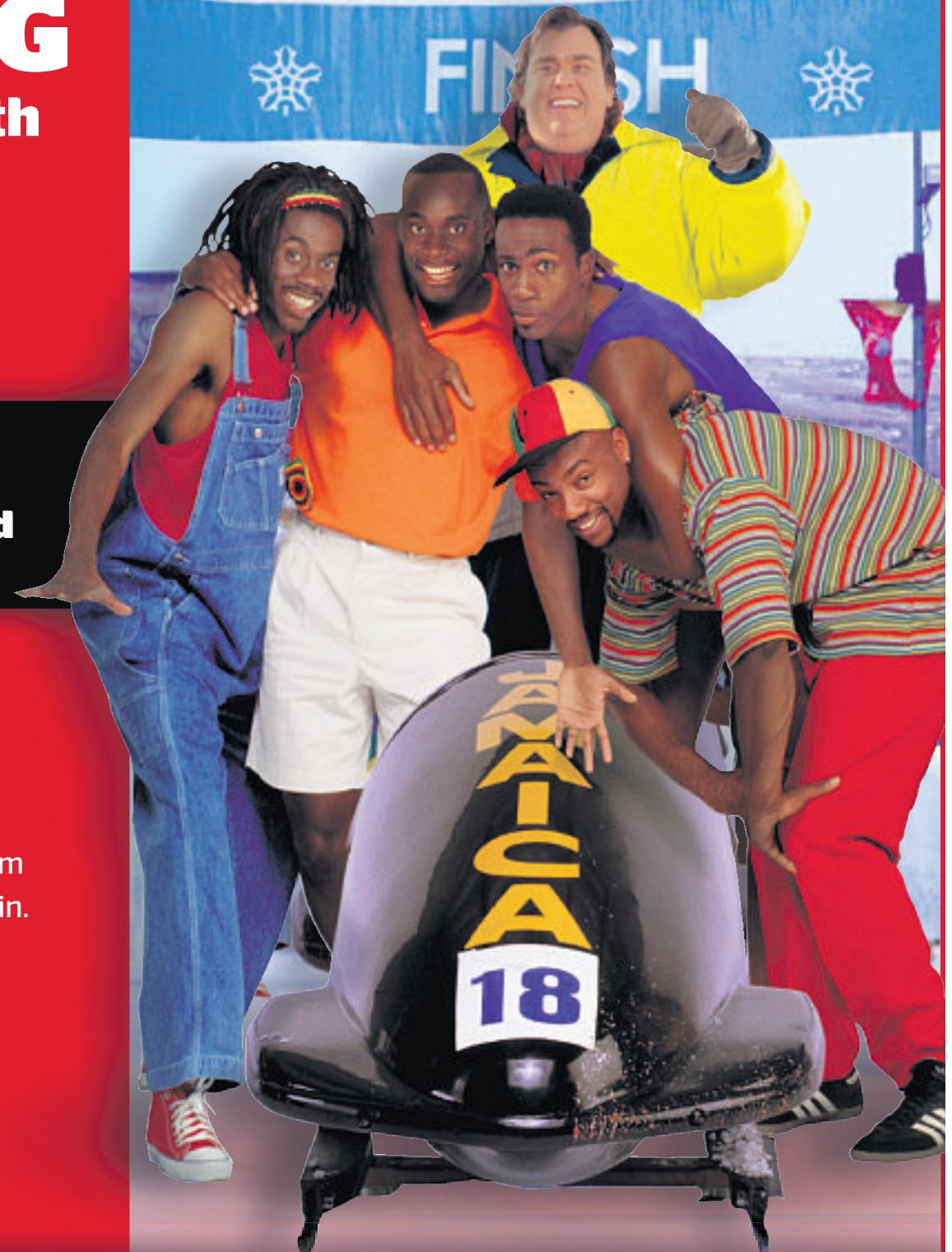
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red hot



Sneak attack

It probably doesn't come as a surprise that the cast of "Modern Family" is kinda prank-happy. Jesse Tyler Ferguson, who plays Mitchell, told Ellen DeGeneres that co-star Eric Stonestreet is king of the jokesters on set. "He's always pranking me but I think the reason he likes to prank me is because he knows that I have no interest in pranking him back, there's no fear of like, 'What is he going to do to me?' I'm just too lazy," he said. We wouldn't mess with Cam either.

Holy crossover!

What's good for "New Girl" is good for "The Mindy Project," right? Max Greenfield sure hopes so. He's set to guest-star on Mindy Kaling's show as "Lee, a hot player at a bar who is up to no good," eonline.com reports, in an episode tentatively scheduled to air April 22. We could only be happier about this if Max were playing Schmidt, his "New Girl" beast of a man geek.

THE DIGIT

25.8 million

That's how many viewers tuned in for the post-Super Bowl episode of "New Girl," featuring a cameo from Prince, thr.com reports. That's up 23 percent from last year's post-game show, "Elementary." Meanwhile, 14.8 million people caught "Brooklyn Nine-Nine."



"I DON'T GIVE A [BLEEP]. I'M NOT DISNEY."

—Miley Cyrus, to W magazine, on complaints about her Jingle Ball performance in December. In case you missed it, Miley was accused of exploiting both black dancers and little people.

GETTY IMAGESFILE

Glam squad

GOOP, GOSSIP & GWYNETH & GRAYDON CARTER...

VANITY FAIR



Looks like Vanity Fair finally got the message about diversity on its covers. The magazine's 20th annual Hollywood issue was unveiled Monday, and for the first time, an equal number of white and non-white stars appear. Chiwetel Ejiofor, Julia Roberts, George Clooney and Idris Elba grace the front, while eight more actors pose on the fold-out portion. Hopefully the fashion on Oscar night will be just as dapper.

THE QUOTE

"I'm trying to think of who I had a crush on at that age and I want to say it was Jim Carrey as the Riddler in 'Batman Forever.'"

— "How I Met Your Mother" star Cristin Milioti, to vulture.com, on the identity of her childhood crush.



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